

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT NAMES NEW CHIEF JUDGES OF SOME STATE COURTS

LANSING, MI, December 20, 2002 - The Michigan Supreme Court today released the names of chief judges who will head some Michigan trial courts.

State Court Administrator John D. Ferry Jr. explained, "The Supreme Court normally appoints chief judges of trial courts every two years, in odd-numbered years. The appointments are being made at this time to replace some chief judges who will retire at the end of 2002."

The Court's order states that the new chief judges will serve "the unexpired portion of the term of two years that commenced January 1, 2002."

Michigan Court Rule (MCR) 8.110 states that "[t]he Supreme Court shall select a judge of each trial court to serve as chief judge." The selection process, which takes place in each odd-numbered year, permits each trial court with two or more judges to submit the names of no fewer than two judges as candidates for chief judge.

Under MCR 8.110, chief judges serve as their court's representatives in dealing with the public, the news media, the legal community, and other government agencies. Chief judges oversee other judges and court staff, supervise caseloads and court finances, and set their courts' hours and work policies.

The new chief judges are:

Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron, 23rd Circuit Court
Hon. Anthony A. Monton, 27th Circuit Court
Hon. William E. Collette, 30th Circuit Court
Hon. Michael J. Baumgartner, 34th Circuit Court
Hon. Jack Vitale, 1st District Court
Hon. Robert T. Hentchel, 7th District Court
Hon. L. Kim Hoaglund, 30th District Court
Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski, 41A District Court

Hon. David M. Gubow, 45B District Court
Hon. Stephen C. Cooper, 46th District Court
Hon. Philip M. Van Dam, 75th District Court
Hon. Peter J. Wadel, 79th District Court
Hon. Daniel L. Sutton, 83rd District Court
Hon. Mark E. Luoma, 93rd District Court
Hon. Glenn A. Pearson, 94th District Court
Hon. Mike E. Nye, Hillsdale County Probate Court

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